



USAID | VIETNAM

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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PROGRAM UPDATES

Health:

- **USAID Helps Vietnam Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic by Strengthening Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) in Hospitals:** USAID is providing \$9.5 million to its implementing partners in Vietnam to respond to COVID-19, including \$5 million in economic support funds and \$4.5 million in health assistance. From June 15-21, with USAID support through its Improving Access, Curriculum and Teaching in Medical Education and Emerging Diseases (IMPACT-MED) Alliance, three IPC onsite trainings and technical assistance visits were conducted in Dak Nong, Quang Binh, and Binh Dinh provinces. Nearly 150 doctors, nurses, and laboratory technicians from 20 provincial and district level healthcare facilities participated in these trainings, and three hospitals received technical assistance on IPC and pandemic preparedness. **So What?** By supporting the health and capacity of hospital and clinic staff across the country to safely and effectively care for patients requiring hospitalization, USAID and its partners are helping to ensure an effective response to COVID-19 in Vietnam.
- **USAID Works with Vietnam's National Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program (NTP) to Complete its 2021-2025 National Strategic Plan:** The USAID Sustainable HIV and Tuberculosis Response from Technical Assistance (SHIFT) activity strengthens and delivers innovative enhancements in HIV and Tuberculosis services. USAID SHIFT's primary aim with regards to TB is to help Vietnam increase diagnosis of TB to achieve its target of ending TB by 2030. Last month, USAID SHIFT supported the NTP to develop a National TB Strategic Plan, which lays out the vision and strategic priorities of the NTP from 2021-2025 to find and treat all TB cases to decrease transmission; and find and treat those who are infected with TB to prevent progression to active disease. **So What?** The National Strategic Plan is a key technical guiding document for the NTP's programming in Vietnam for the next five years and shows the government's commitment to ending TB by 2030.

Social Development:

- **USAID Promotes Independent Living Skills for Persons with Severe Disabilities:** Public perception in Vietnam is that persons with disabilities (PWDs) should be taken care of

by their families, social organizations, and the government. As a result, physical and social environments do not cater to PWD accessibility, which results in a majority of PWDs, especially those with severe and extremely severe disabilities, unable to live independently. To address this, from June 19-21, USAID's Raising Voices, Creating Opportunities activity, implemented by the Action to the Community Development Center (ACDC), carried out home-based training on independent living skills in Quang Nam province. Fifty persons with severe and extremely severe disabilities in Duy Xuyen, Dai Loc, and Dien Ban districts were evaluated on their basic daily living activities, housing, attitudes and knowledge of independent living, and their needs. PWDs and their family members or caregivers were advised on basic rehabilitation activities, skills to carry out daily activities, and the addition of low-cost or home-made assistive devices. They were also guided on how to renovate their homes to ensure accessibility, convenience, and safety for PWDs in their daily activities. PWDs and their family members/caregivers also participated in peer counseling sessions to share experiences and support each other to enhance their independent living skills. **So What?** By improving the awareness, attitudes, and skills on independent living, USAID is helping persons with severe disabilities better integrate themselves into society.

- **USAID Improves Access to Affordable and Quality Services for Children with Disabilities in Dong Nai Province:** USAID's Disabilities Integration of Services and Therapies Network for Capacity and Treatment (DISTINCT) activity aims to improve the quality of life of children with disabilities under six years old and their families by implementing a comprehensive model of early childhood disability detection and intervention with services, development and education, and integration into society. On June 17, USAID DISTINCT and Song Pho Psychology Application Center (a private center specializing in interventions for children with severe disabilities in Bien Hoa, Dong Nai province) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to provide special education interventions for children with developmental disabilities. This document demonstrates the three parties' commitment to a public-private partnership to support project and financial sustainability through a novel co-contribution mechanism. **So What?** Through this effort, children with disabilities will receive affordable and quality services. In addition, by working with USAID, Song Pho Center's service provision for children with disabilities will be strengthened, contributing to its self-reliance.

Economic Growth and Governance:

- **USAID Strengthens the Capacity of Business Support Organizations (BSOs) in Vietnam:** Fostering better integration of Vietnamese Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) with commercial market systems requires a vibrant network of capable BSOs. In order to improve the competencies and skills of BSOs in Vietnam, on June 15 and 24-25, USAID Linkages for Small and Medium Enterprises, in collaboration with the Ministry of

Planning and Investment (MPI)'s Agency for Enterprise Development (AED), held foundation-level training sessions for BSOs in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City respectively. During these capacity building sessions, 52 participants from 35 BSOs around the country were introduced to a range of foundation topics and an intensive introduction to business linkages. Modules included leadership, change management, marketing, branding, relationship building, the four-step linkages process, supply chain fundamentals, and procurement in global value chains. **So What?** By providing these capacity building sessions, USAID has helped BSOs expand their perspective, build skills, and equip themselves with tools to promote private sector-led growth in Vietnam, and advance the Indo-Pacific vision of improved trade and competitiveness.

- **USAID Helps Vietnam Improve Business Satisfaction in Conducting Customs Procedures through the National Single Window (NSW) System:** On June 22, the USAID Trade Facilitation Program together with the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and General Department of Vietnam Customs (GDVC) held an event in Hanoi to release a report titled “Business Satisfaction and Time Needed to Carry Out Administrative Procedures through the National Single Window.” A second event was held in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) on June 26 to raise awareness of the report. The NSW is a one-stop shop for customs clearances and is expected to simplify import/export administrative procedures in accordance with international practices and standards. Over 3,100 enterprises participated in the survey, which focused on the 12 most frequently implemented procedures in the NSW system. The report’s findings showed that eight of the 12 administrative procedures helped reduce business cost by more than 50 percent. Businesses also thought that it took less time to complete procedures using the NSW system, but noted that there was still room for improvement in simplifying a few administrative procedures. Recommendations from the report included upgrading the functionality of the NSW, improving the interconnectivity between the GDVC and line ministries to reduce processing time, and improving the efficiency and utility of the NSW. The NSW Report was well received by the ASEAN Secretariat as a good example of improving NSWs among ASEAN member countries and facilitating connectivity to the ASEAN Single Window. **So What?** The NSW implementation survey helps engage the business sector in advocating for reforms, thus improving Customs to Business partnership and contributing to the Indo-Pacific vision of improved trade and competitiveness.

Project Spotlight:

Each week we will highlight one of the more than 40 activities used to provide assistance in Vietnam.

The [Vietnam Localworks for Environmental Health activity](#) strengthens partnerships among local organizations to sustainably address environmental health challenges through a learning-by-doing model. The project addresses water-related health issues in Thanh Hoa and Ha Nam provinces. The best practice models from this project will be scaled-up to other

locations.

Key Upcoming Events:

- **July 2-3 (Can Tho province):** Training for Southern provincial officials on processing complaints and recommendations from businesses via the newly launched National Public Service Portal. (USAID Linkages for Small and Medium Enterprises)
- **July 8 (Hanoi):** Memorandum of Intent Signing Ceremony between USAID and the Vietnam Office of Seeking Missing Persons on Technical Support for the Identification of Human Remains.
- **July 28 (Virtual):** Annual USAID Building University-Industry Learning and Development Through Innovation and Technology (BUILD-IT) Alliance Partner Meeting announcing USAID BUILD-IT one-year extension, key accomplishments, and upcoming goals.

More Information about USAID/Vietnam Programs:

- USAID/Vietnam Website: <http://www.usaid.gov/vietnam>
- USAID/Vietnam Fact Sheets: <https://www.usaid.gov/vietnam/fact-sheets>